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# Transliteration of Indonesian Geographical Names Into Chinese

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, a comparative analysis of the Indonesian and Chinese phonetics during the geographical naming conversion process is carried out to investigate the ways how Chinese transliterate Indonesian geographical names in order to standardize Chinese translation for Indonesian geographical names. In general, the author found that people will translate geographical names by transliterating for their specific parts and paraphrasing for the generic parts. Dealing with vowels and consonants has different characteristics in the transliteration process, which generally follows Chinese pronunciation habits. While some geographical names are translated directly into Chinese dialects. This contains a wealth of immigrant culture and their dialectal knowledge, which can infer the general distribution of early Chinese immigrants in Indonesian settlements, guide significance for the study of Chinese society and culture. In addition, Chinese transliterated versions of Indonesian geographical names in different historical periods are subject to change.

**Keywords:** *Chinese language and dialects; Indonesian Chinese immigrants; Indonesian geographical names; standardize; transliteration*

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## INTRODUCTION

A geographical name refers to a specific geographic entity or a specific regional sign. From a cultural perspective, geographical names are one part of the culture and socio-economy. The translation of geographical names is the process of converting geographical written names from the original language into another language (target language), which is a process of linguistic sign conversion. The translation of Indonesian geographical names into Chinese falls into this kind of category. With ideal expectations, the result of the translation converted from Indonesian or local Indonesian dialects should be fully understood by any Chinese.

### Research Background

Indonesia is the most populous country in Southeast Asia

and the largest economy in ASEAN. This country is an important partner in the joint construction of the "Belt and Road" cooperation. The Chinese translation of Indonesian geographical names is not only an academic issue but also a vital role in the exchanges between these two countries in diverse sectors such as politics, economy and trade, diplomacy, science and technology, humanities, and press and publishing. The author expects that the research on the Chinese translation of Indonesian geographical names will play a certain role in the unification of the Chinese translation of foreign geographical names, and contribute to the overall situation of China's international cooperation. The author uses 354 Indonesian geographical names for Indonesia's main islands, mountains, inland seas, straits, rivers, lakes, ports, and cities, with Appendix II of the current "*Indonesian-Chinese Dictionary*" as the

research objects, while referring to the "Handbook of Translation of Foreign Place Names", to summarize the methods and precautions for the Chinese translation of Indonesian cities' geographical names.

The United Nations has been advocating "Standardization of Geographical Names" for many years around the world. It is hoped that there will be only one standard translation or pronunciation in one national language. That's why every Indonesian geographical name should refer only to one Chinese translation. In historical records, Chinese names for the same area in Indonesia appeared differently. For example, it was found by Ma Huan's record in *The Kingdom of Java* in the Chinese classic history book *Yingya Shenglan*, that the island of Java was called 閩婆[ʃe55 p<sup>h</sup>o35] in ancient times. In the Ming dynasty, it was renamed 爪哇[tʃau55 ua0] which is still used today. Tuban, called 杜班[tu51 pan55] in the Ming dynasty, is currently having 图班[t<sup>h</sup>u35 pan55] and 厨闽[tʃu35 min214] as its official name. Gresik, in the Ming dynasty, was named 新村[ei55 ts<sup>h</sup>un55] (meaning new village), and now is given a new one, namely 革儿昔[kv35 ə214 ei55]. Surabaya, was once called 苏鲁马益[su55 lu214 ma214 i51], or 苏儿把牙[su55 ə35 pa214 ja35], whose present name is 泗水[sɿ51 ʃwei214] or [su55 la55 pa55 ja214]. There are even different versions of the naming of the same kingdom. For example, Majapahit, whose most common name is 满者伯夷[man214 tʃy214 po35 i35], was called in the history book *Dao Yi Zhi Lue* 门逸把逸[mən35 i51 pa214 i51], despite the fact that the *History of Yuan Dynasty* recorded it as 麻喏八歇[ma35 nuo51 pa55] and 麻喏巴歇[ma35 nuo51 pa55]. Now the name for Majapahit is 满者伯夷[man214 tʃy214 po35 i35], which appeared in the Ming dynasty. Many people today still call Borneo Island 婆罗洲[p<sup>h</sup>o35 luo35 tʃou55] instead of 加里曼丹岛[teja55 li214 man51 tan55 tau214]. A similar case is Bali Island, which is called 巴利岛[pa55 li51 tau214] or 巴厘岛[pa55 li35 tau214]. In the modern era, with the development of technology and the rapid advancement of transportation, exchanges between China and Indonesia have become easier. More and more Chinese people are traveling to Indonesia, and they often translate Indonesian geographical names based on their preferences. So today, one place has multiple Chinese names. For example, Mount Bromo, often referred to as 婆罗摩火山[p<sup>h</sup>o35 luo35 mo35 huo214 ʃan55], 勃罗莫火山[po35 luo35 mo51 xu214 ʃan55] or 婆罗摩火山[p<sup>h</sup>o214 luo35 mo35 xu214 ʃan55]. Sidoarjo Regency is named 徐图利祖[ey35 t<sup>h</sup>u35 li51 tsu214] or 诗都阿佐[ʃɿ55 tu55 a55 zuo214]. The Chinese translation for Kuta, the tourist city, is also different, namely, 古

达[ku214 ta35] and 库塔[k<sup>h</sup>u51 t<sup>h</sup>a214]. The city of Makassar is called 望加锡[wɑŋ51 tɕia55 ɕɿ55] or 乌戎潘当[u55 zʊŋ35 p<sup>h</sup>an55 taŋ55].

It might be a joke but Pak Tsai, through his writing *A Few Suggestions on Chinese Translation of Indonesian Place Names*, once shared a true story in his life. He said that a friend who wanted to go to a factory in Serang and the friend called Serang "se lang", of which the pronunciation is similar to the word "色狼[sy51 laŋ35]" which means "sexual predator". If Serang people had known, they would've been upset, though this friend was still confused.

Translating the same Indonesian geographical name into different Chinese versions surely brings inconvenience to the audience, making it very necessary to get rid of, which also triggered this article.

In *Webster's Now 20th Century Dictionary*, transliteration is the writing or pronunciation of a foreign language sound symbol that can represent the same sound in the writing system of the particular language. The author has chosen a list of names attached to the back of the *Indonesian-Chinese Dictionary* and the *Handbook of Translation of Foreign Geographical Names* as objects of research, including names of islands, mountains, seas, straits, rivers, lakes, ports and cities that are most popular in Indonesia.

Geographical names are divided into specific and generic ones. In general, people translate geographical names for their specific parts and paraphrase for their generic parts. In translating the names of islands, mountains, lakes, oceans, rivers in Indonesia, the two methods are generally combined. For example, the island of Bali is translated as [pa55 li35 tau214], in which "巴厘[pa55 li35]" for "Bali" is specific, and "岛[tau214]" for "island" is generic. This combined method accounts for more than 90% of Indonesia's geographical naming conversions. However, for the names of residential areas in Indonesia, such as cities and districts, most people use transliteration rather than paraphrasing, as mentioned above.

The advantage of transliteration is to maintain the phonetic characteristics of the source language and the cultural features of the nation or ethnicity of the native users. In the transliteration process, several general principles need to be followed. First, it is the principle of simplicity, meaning that unnecessary sounds in Indonesian geographical names can be removed. For example, "Kampar, S. 甘巴河(gān bā hé), is not translated as 甘巴尔河[kan55 pa55 ə214 xy35], because the letter "r" in the word "Kampar" is considered invalid and meaningless and thus can be omitted.

Second, it comes with the principle of neutrality, meaning that flattering or funny words are avoided so as not to cause prejudice to Chinese readers. For example, “Madura” is translated as “马都拉[ma214 tu55 la55]”. The three characters “马[ma214]”, “都[tu55]”, “拉[la55]” do have their own meanings, but when combined like this, they are meaningless. However, if you replace it with a different character to make, for example, “骂肚拉[ma51 tu51 la55]”, the sound is almost the same but the name of this place means “angry caused by diarrhea”. If a geographical name carries a meaning like that, it is considered inappropriate. So this situation should be avoided. Therefore, we will choose words or letters that have a neutral meaning in the conversion of geographical names from one language to another.

The third principle, using simple and common words in the translation process, and avoiding unusual and rare words, is well-known. For example, in Mount Agung, we choose the characters “阿贡 [a55 kuŋ51]”, instead of “吡觥 [a55 kuŋ51]”. Because the Chinese characters “吡[a55]” and “觥[kuŋ51]” are rarely used and very few people know them.

The fourth principle, following traditions and history, demonstrates the fact that some translation versions are already known and historical terms, although their Chinese pronunciation does not match the standard Indonesian or its dialects. For example, Surabaya is called “泗水[sɿ51 ʂwei214]”, Jogjakarta is called “日惹[zɿ51 zɿ214]”, Medan is called “棉兰[mian35 lan35]”, Jakarta is called “巴城[pa55 tʂhəŋ35]” or “椰城[jɛ55 tʂhəŋ35]». In these cases, it is recommended to follow the tradition instead of creating a new translation.

The fifth principle applies to the situation when the same geographical name is used in different historical periods or areas. In this case, the same place can have multiple translation versions. For example, “The Kingdom of Mataram” and “The Sultanate of Mataram” are both royal names in the Indonesian history, but the two cannot be identically translated as “马打蓝王国 [ma214 ta214 lan35 waŋ35 kuo35]”. The corresponding translation should be distinguished based on history, as “The Mataram Kingdom (Ancient)” is a Hindu-Buddhist kingdom founded in southern Central Java in the 8th century.

However, “The Sultanate of Mataram” was a state in the form of a sultanate in Java in the 16th century. Among Indonesian academics, to distinguish between the two kingdoms, people will add the word “kuno (means ‘ancient’)” when referring to “The Mataram Kingdom”. To distinguish the Chinese versions, we can refer to the practice of Indonesian academics and translate them

into “马打蓝古王国[ma214 ta214 lan35 ku214 waŋ35 kuo35]” and “马打蓝苏丹王国[ma214 ta214 lan35 su55 tan55 uaŋ35 kuo35]”. Above are different translation practices for the same name.

This article has selected geographical names in the *Indonesian-Chinese dictionary* compiled by the most authoritative linguistics team led by Liang Liji and Huang Chenfang, as well as place names in the *Handbook of Translating Foreign Geographical Names* issued by the China Geographical Names Committee. It is hoped that the rules and characteristics of translating geographical names into Chinese will be built, which aims to benefit the standardization of Chinese translation for Indonesian geographical names.

Observers are pointing out the inconsistency in the Chinese translation of Indonesian geographical names (Chen Zhengxiang, 2011; Cai Hanchuan, 2017) with the hope of standardize the translation of Indonesian geographical names into Chinese. An Indonesian student, Zhang Saiying, while studying for his master’s degree in China, wrote a thesis on *the Study of Assigning Chinese Names of Indonesian Cities, and the Origin of Si Shui’s name as a Chinese name for Surabaya* (Zhang Saiying, 2007). Zhang examines the origin of Mandarin names for Indonesian cities.

This article attempts to find the principles and methods of the Chinese translation of Indonesian geographical names, including an in-depth analysis of transliteration, which takes the largest proportion. The material of the analysis is a list of Chinese names for Indonesian geographical names in Appendix II of the *Indonesian-Chinese Dictionary*. The method is to carry out a comparative phonetic analysis between Indonesian and Chinese in the process of converting geographic names. Meanwhile, historical data has been collected to investigate the origin of Chinese naming for Indonesian geographical names.

## Research Method

This paper observes the recording of Indonesian geographical names in Chinese under the framework of toponymy. Toponymy is a science that studies the origin, word composition, meaning, evolution, distribution, standardization of reading and writing of geographical names, and the relationship between geographical names and the natural and social environment. Linguistics is one of the main research methods of toponymy. In addition, it also uses mathematical statistics to study the quantitative relationship between different types of geographical names. This article is an interdisciplinary

study between translation studies and toponymy, while using methods from geography, anthropology, and history. In this paper, the literature collection method is used to obtain data. The data recorded in the literature are classified and counted, and the Indonesian pronunciation, word meaning, folk etymological legend and historical traceability of geographical names are collected by on-the-spot investigation. In order to achieve the research purpose, this paper adopts other research methods, as follows:

**Comparative method**

Transliteration is the process of adapting the voice of the source language to its target language, and it is a transfer of voice coding. In this article, we mainly discuss the conversion of the Indonesian voice into the Chinese voice, and the process of doing this will inevitably be interfered with by the translator’s native language. Given the most common situation, this article discusses the assumption that the translator is a native Chinese speaker. By comparing the phonetics between Indonesian and Chinese, the phonetic adaptation rules in the process of translating Indonesian geographical names into Chinese are observed and summarized. The discussion is mainly based on syllables, and the vowels and consonants in syllables (namely Shengmu and Yunmu in Chinese) are discussed as well.

**Dialectology**

Dialects are regional variants of a language, referring to the branches of the same language in different regions. Chinese dialects are usually divided into seven major categories: northern dialect, Wu dialect, Hunan dialect, Gan dialect, Hakka dialect, Cantonese dialect, and Fujian dialect. Each contains several sub-dialects and many other local languages. The most significant differences between regional dialects sit in phonetics, as well as in their grammar and vocabulary. The discussion of this article will be based on the real situation of the Indonesian Chinese and overseas Chinese in history. The most common ones are Hokkien, Cantonese, and Chaoshan. Although the three also fall under the umbrella of the Chinese language, they are language variants with significant differences in pronunciation from the Mandarin dialects. In order to more accurately record the phonetic changes during the transliteration encoding process of converting Indonesian geographical names into Chinese versions, the Chinese dialect pronunciation recorded by the phonetic recording will be restored, and the rules of converting the Indonesian pronunciation into

corresponding dialects will be summarized.

**Cross-cultural studies**

Cross-cultural research, also known as “comparative cultural research”, is to use various cultures around the world as samples to conduct comparative research on different data in order to test multiple hypotheses about human behavior. The development of cross-cultural research began with anthropology. In the process of research on the Chinese translation of Indonesian geographical names, we will use the cross-cultural research method to analyze the social, cultural and artistic value contained in the transliteration of geographical names, especially in the immigrant community of Indonesian Chinese.

**About Phonetic Annotations**

Chinese characters are not written in Latin letters. Therefore, in order to facilitate readers’ understanding of the pronunciation of geographic names and the phonetic comparison between the Chinese and Indonesian languages, this article will use the internationally accepted labeling method, namely the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Geographical names will be marked as, for example, 马都拉 [ma214 tu55 la55] (Madura).

Here it is necessary to introduce the IPA and the related practices of marking Chinese phonetics with the IPA. IPA is an alphabetic system for phonetic transcription. IPA users include linguists, speech therapists, foreign language teachers, singers, lexicographers and translators. Originally used for the transcription of Indo-European languages, African languages, etc., the International Phonetic Alphabet follows the principle of “one note, one character, one character, one note”. After years of development, with the efforts of several Chinese linguists such as Zhao Yuanren, the gradually perfected International Phonetic Alphabet can now apply to Chinese and other oriental languages. The Chinese mentioned in this article refers to Putonghua, China’s official language, rather than its dialect phonetic system. For lack of space, this article only briefly introduces the Chinese vowel system, compound vowel and consonant system marked by the IPA. All IPA annotations are marked with [ ], such as [a], or 勃佐尼哥罗 [po35 tsuo214 ni35 ky55 luo35] (Bojonegoro). The Chinese phonetic system marked with the IPA is as follows.

**Vowel System of Chinese**

Pinyin	IPA	Pinyin	IPA	Pinyin	IPA
a	[a]	e	[ɤ]	u	[u]
o	[o]	i	[i]	ü	[y]

### Compound Voewels of Chinese

Pinyin	IPA	Pinyin	IPA	Pinyin	IPA
ai	[ai]	ing	[iŋ]	uai	[uai]
ei	[ei]	ia	[ia]	ui (uei)	[uei]
ao	[au]	iao	[iau]	uan	[uan]
ou	[ou]	ian	[ian]	uang	[uaŋ]
an	[an]	iang	[iaŋ]	un (uen)	[uən]
en	[ən]	ie	[ie]	ueng	[uəŋ]
in	[in]	iong	[yŋ]	üe	[yɛ]
ang	[aŋ]	iou	[iou]	üan	[yan]
eng	[əŋ]	ua	[ua]	ün	[yn]
ong	[uŋ]	uo	[uo]	ng	[ŋ]

### Consonant System

Pinyin	IPA	Pinyin	IPA	Pinyin	IPA
b	[p]	g	[k]	s	[s]
p	[p <sup>h</sup> ]	k	[k <sup>h</sup> ]	zh	[tʂ]
m	[m]	h	[x]	ch	[tʂ <sup>h</sup> ]
f	[f]	j	[tɕ]	sh	[ʃ]
d	[t]	q	[tɕ <sup>h</sup> ]	r	[ʒ]
t	[t <sup>h</sup> ]	x	[ç]	y	[j]
n	[n]	z	[ts]	w	[w]
l	[l]	c	[ts <sup>h</sup> ]		

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Characteristics and Rules of Dealing Vowels & Consonants in the process of Transliteration from Indonesian to Chinese

Since ancient times, the problem of precise transliteration in geographical names has never been completely solved. Ideally, the pronunciation of geographical names should be exactly the same between the translations before and after, which is very difficult to achieve. The main reason is that each language's phonetic system is different and cannot be fully matched. So the translated names may more or less sound "distorted" when compared with the pronunciation of the original version. There is no exception for the conversion of geographical names from Indonesian into Chinese.

Indonesian as the official language of the Republic of Indonesia is used as the source language for geographical names in Indonesia. The language belongs to the Austronesian language family. Austronesian languages are agglutinative languages that generally use words with double or multiple syllables. However, the

Chinese language belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Its characters are dominated by single syllables with a particular tone. The main consonants are voiceless. Chinese characters feature a strong ideographic function. Each Chinese character has a shape, sound, and meaning. Sometimes a character is polysemantic, and the same meaning can be represented by different characters. Likewise, one pronunciation can refer to different characters. There are four tones in the pronunciation of each Chinese syllable, resulting in a mismatch of tones in the translation of Indonesian geographical names into Chinese. Therefore, in addition to following the general principles and practices mentioned above, the transliteration of Indonesian geographical names into Chinese has also formed unique characteristics and rules for a long time. The "Chinese" mentioned here refers to Mandarin Chinese or Putonghua which is commonly used in China.

### Dealing with Vowels

Vowel letters in Indonesian: a, e, i, o, and u. Vowel 'e' has two allophone variants, /e/ and /ə/. Below we will introduce, one by one, how to translate vowels in the process of Chinese transliteration.

#### Vowel 'a'

The vowel 'a' in Indonesian is pronounced as /a/ in Chinese. The transliteration of the vowel 'a' will be different under varied conditions. First, when 'a' is at the beginning of a word, such as "Alor Kep.", "Agung G.", "Arjuna G.", etc., that letter is translated as Chinese character "阿[a55]", such as "阿洛群岛[a55 luo51 tehyn35 tau214]", "阿贡山[a55 kuŋ51 ʂan55]", and "阿周那山[a55 tʂou55 na51 ʂan55]"; If /a/ is in the middle of a word, such as "Natuna Kep.", "Merapi G.", "Kuta", etc., we need to first find out the sound of the syllable with 'a' and the consonant before the vowel, then look for Chinese characters that sound the same or similar. However, such a result can contain more than one character. How do we choose characters for the single vowel? In this case, we will use the principles of transliteration that we discussed at the beginning of this article. Thus the three geographical names will be translated as "纳土纳群岛[na51 t<sup>h</sup>u214 na51 teyn35 tau214]", "墨拉比山[mo51 la55 pi214 ʂan55]" and "古达[ku214 ta35]".

#### Vowel 'o'

The vowel 'o' in Indonesian is a low rounded vowel. Its pronunciation is almost as same as the vowel 'o' in

Chinese. But in the process of translating into Chinese there are three different ways:

First, ‘o’ in the geographical name of Indonesia is replaced by a phoneme /uo/ in Chinese. This method is the most commonly used, for example, 弗洛勒斯[fu35 luo51 ly51 sɿ55] (Flores P.), 波梭湖[po55 suo55 xu35] (Poso, D.), 多巴湖[tuo55 pa55 xu35] (Toba, D.), etc.

Second, when ‘o’ and ‘n’ are combined in Indonesian geographical names, ‘o’ is usually translated as /u/ in Chinese, such as “Buton, P.”, and “Gorontalo”, converted to “布敦岛[pu51 tyn51 tau214]” and “哥伦打洛[ky55 lun35 ta214 luo51]”. When ‘o’ appears repeatedly, it is translated as a single /u/, like 米苏尔岛[mi214 su55 ə214 tau214](Misool, P.).

Third, ‘o’ is translated as /e/([y]) in Chinese, such as 哥伦打洛[ky55 lun35 ta214 luo51](Gorontalo) and 科摩多岛[khy55 mo35 tuo55 tau214] (Komodo, P.).

Fourth, ‘o’ is translated as ‘o’ in Chinese, but the position of ‘o’ in the word will influence the translation. When ‘o’ comes after a consonant ‘m’ and forms a single syllable, it will generally be translated as “莫[mo51]”, like 莫罗泰岛[mo51 luo35 tʰai51 tau214] for “Morotai P.”, 布鲁莫山 [pu51 lu214 my51 ʃan55] for “Bromo G.”; The three consonants instead of /m/ but /b/, will be translated as “勃[po35]”, like 普罗勃灵莪港[pʰu214 luo35 po35 liŋ35 y35 kaŋ214] for “Probolinggo”, 勃佐尼哥罗[po35 tsuo214 ni35 ky55 luo35] for “Bojonegoro”, 勃恩多沃梭 [po35 ən55 tuo55 wo51 suo55] for “Bondowoso”.

Fifth, when ‘o’ is at the beginning of a word, it will be translated as the sound /au/ in Chinese. Such as 奥比群岛[au51 pi214 tɕʰyn35 tau214] for Obi, Kep. .

It should be noted that transliteration methods for ‘o’ in Indonesian geographical names are sometimes combined, for example, 布鲁莫山[pu51 lu214 mo51 ʃan55] (Bromo, G.), 科莫多岛[kʰy55 mo51 tuo55 tau214] (Komodo, P.), 梭龙(Sorong), 普罗勃灵莪港 [pʰu214 luo35 po35 liŋ35 y35 kaŋ214] (Probolinggo), 勃佐尼哥罗[po35 tsuo214 ni35 ky55 luo35] (Bojonegoro), and 勃恩多沃梭 [po35 ən55 tuo55 uo51 suo55] (Bondowoso).

### Vowel ‘e’

The vowel ‘e’ in Indonesian represents two phonemes, namely /e/ & /ə/, different from Chinese ‘e’ with only one phoneme /ə/ (or [ɛ] as an allophone from /ə/). This affects the translation of Indonesian geographical names into Chinese. In general, people will adapt the pronunciation to their native language so that it can be widely accepted. The methods are as followed:

First, ‘e’ in the Indonesian geographical name is translated as Chinese ‘e’, regardless of the origin of the

sound [y] or [ə]. This method simplifies the conversion process, such as 特尔纳特岛[tʰy51 ə214 na51 tʰy51 tau214](Ternate, P.), 特加尔[tʰy51 teia55 ə214](Tegal), and 瑟朗[sy51 laŋ214](Serang).

Second, Chinese /ai/ is used to replace /e/, such as 塞拉墨特山[sai51 la55 mo51 tʰy51 ʃan55](Selamat, G.), 塞眉鲁山[sai51 mei35 lu214 ʃan55](Semeru, G.), and 塞姆布岛[sai51 mu214 pu51 tau214](Sempu, P.).

Third, Chinese /ei/ is used to replace /e/, such as 韦塔岛[wei35 tʰa214 tau214](Wetar, P.), and 苏拉威西岛[su55 la55 wei55 ei55 tau214](Sulawesi, P.).

### Vowel /i/

The vowel /i/ in Indonesian is pronounced the same as /i/ in Chinese, such as 比通[pi214 tʰuŋ55](Bitung), 勿加锡[u51 teia55 ei55](Bekasi), 巴厘[pa55 li35](Bali), and 林贾尼山[lin35 teia214 ni35 ʃan55](Rinjani, G.).

Similar to the vowels /a/ and /o/, if the position in the word is different, the way of transliteration will also vary. When /i/ along with another vowel (i+another vowel) appear together in the middle of a geographical name, /i/ not only functions as a vowel but also as a consonant /j/, such as 比亚克岛[pi214 ja51 kʰy51 tau215](Biak, P.) and 尼亚斯岛[ni35 teja51 sɿ55 tau214] (Nias, P.). When another /i/ vowel appears after a single syllable in a geographical name, in general, /i/ will be considered a syllable in Chinese, like 卡伊群岛[kʰa214 i55 tɕʰyn35 tau214] (Kai, Kep.). However, when the /other vowel + i/ comes after a geographical name with a non-singular, the /other vowel + i/ will be considered a diphthong in Chinese, for example, 莫罗泰岛[mo35 luo35 tʰai51 tau214](Morotai, P.).

### Vowel ‘u’

In Indonesian, ‘u’ is pronounced as /u/ in Chinese. When an Indonesian geographical name contains a vowel ‘u’, it will be transliterated as a Chinese /u/, for example, 纳土纳群岛[na51 tʰu214 na51 tɕʰyn35 tau214](Natuna Kep.), 马鲁古群岛[ma214 lu214 ku214 tɕʰyn35 tau214] (Maluku Kep.), 马都拉岛[ma214 tu55 la55 tau214] (Madura P.). However, if /u/ joins /ŋ/ and appears in a syllable in the form /uŋ/, /uŋ/ will be replaced by /ong/ in Chinese, such as, 阿贡山[a55 kuŋ51 ʃan55](Agung, G.), 芝利翁河[tɕʰy55 li51 wəŋ55 xy35](Ciliwung, S.), and 比通[pi214 tʰuŋ55](Bitung).

### Characteristics and Rules of Consonant Transliteration

#### ‘b’, ‘d’, ‘g’, ‘p’, ‘t’ and ‘k’

The consonants ‘b’, ‘d’, ‘g’, ‘p’, ‘t’ and ‘k’ will be

translated as /p/, /t/, /k/, for example, 邦加岛[paŋ55 teja55 tau214] Bangka,P., 巴厘岛[pa55 li35 tau214] Bali,P., 勃诺阿港[po35 nuo51 a55 kaŋ214](Benoa), 多拉克[tuo55 la55 kʰy51](Dolak), 德姆坡山[tɿ35 mu214 pʰo55 ʃan55](Dempo,G.), 登巴萨[təŋ55 pa55 sa51](Denpasar), 哥伦打洛[ky55 lun35 ta214 luo51](Gorontalo), 格雷锡港[ky35 lei35 ei55 kaŋ215](Gresik), 帕蒂[pʰa51 ti51](Pati), 普罗勃灵莪港[pʰu214 luo35 po35 liŋ35 ɿ35 kaŋ214](Probolinggo), 普我加尔达[pʰu214 wo51 teja55 ə214 ta35](Purwakarta), 塔巴南[tʰa214 pa55 nan35](Tabanan), 特尔纳特[tʰy51 ə214 na51 tʰy51](Ternate), 托武蒂湖[tuo55 u214 ti51 xu35](Towuti), 克隆贡[kʰy51 luŋ35 kuŋ51](Klungkung), 肯达里[kʰən214 ta35 li214](Kendari), 卡普阿斯河[kʰa214 pʰu214 a55 ɿ55 xy35](Kapuas,S.).

In linguistics, voiceless consonants refer to the situation when vocal cords do not vibrate when speaking, as opposed to voiced consonants. If comparing the two languages, there are also voiced and voiceless consonants in Indonesian. But the two are not entirely the same. At the same time, there are aspirated and unaspirated consonants in Chinese, but none exists in Indonesian.

In Indonesian, /b/, /d/, and /g/ are voiced consonants, and /p/, /t/, and /k/ are voiceless consonants that are plosive or fricative sounds pronounced with strong airflow. In Chinese, the three sounds /p/, /t/, and /k/ are aspirate sounds, as opposed to the unaspirated sounds like /b/, /d/, and /g/ that are pronounced with a weaker airflow. Chinese people find it difficult to distinguish between voiceless and voiced consonants, such as /b/ & /p/, /d/ & /t/, /g/ & /k/ these three groups of Indonesian consonants sounds. Chinese pronunciation habits, which resulted in a “distortion” of the Indonesian pronunciation will cause an impact on the translation of Indonesian geographical names into Chinese.

This case gives rise to the indiscriminate translation, during which /b/, /d/, and /g/ in Indonesian geographical names are easily converted to /p/, /t/, and /k/.

For instance, Palembang, 巴邻邦[pa55 lin35 paŋ55], Pare-pare 巴里巴里港[pa55 li214 pa55 li214 kaŋ214], Peleng,P. 伯冷岛[po35 ləŋ214 tau214], 通达诺湖[tuŋ55 ta35 nuo51 xu35](Tondano, D.), 托武蒂湖[tʰuo55 wu214 ti51 xu35](Towuti, D.), 帝汶海[tʰi51 wən35 xai214](Timor,L.), 马打兰[ma214 ta214 lan35](Mataram), 哥达巴鲁港[ky55 ta35 pa55 lu214 kaŋ214](Kotabaru), 葛林芝湖[ky214 lin35 tɿ55 xu35](Kerinci,D.), and 库邦[kʰu51 paŋ55](Kupang), etc. The Tihongha people sometimes translate /g/ in Indonesian geographical names into /kʰ/ in Chinese, such as 卡卢特[kʰa214 lu35 tʰy51](Garut).

## ‘c’, ‘j’

In Indonesian, /c/ is a silent fricative and /j/ is a voiced fricative. The differences in their pronunciations are very slight and often ignored in the translation of geographical names into Chinese names. In general, /zh/ will replace /c/ and /j/, as well as /tɕ/ or /tɕʰ/ in certain cases such as Jawa 爪哇[tɕau214 wa55], 芝利翁河[tɕɿ55 li51 wəŋ55 xy35]Ciliwung, S., 芝拉扎港[tɕɿ55 la55 tɕa55 kaŋ214]Cilacap, 占碑[tɕan51 pei55]Jambi, 查亚普拉[tɕʰa35 ja51 pʰu214 la55]Jayapura, 扎巴拉[tɕa55 pa55 la55]Jepara, and 佐姆邦[tɕuo214 mu214 paŋ55]Jombang. This needs to be explained here.

## ‘l’, ‘r’

In Indonesian, /l/ and /r/ are produced with the tongue close to or touching the ridge behind the teeth, while /l/ is an alveolar, and /r/ is voiced. There are no voiced consonants in Chinese, and /r/ is not replaced by /r/ in Chinese when translating Indonesian geographical names. In general, /l/ and /r/ are used as the consonant components of a syllable, and are usually translated as /l/ in Chinese, such as, 拉哈特[la55 xa55 tʰy51](Lahat), 龙目海峡[luŋ35 mu51 xai214 eja35](Lombok, Sel.), 廖内群岛[ljau51 nei51 tɕʰyn35 tau214](Riau,Kep), 罗地岛[luo35 ti51 tau214](Roti.P), 布鲁莫山[pu51 lu214 mo51 ʃan55](Bromo,G), 蒂多雷岛[ti51 tuo55 lei35 tau214]Tidore, and 巴杜尔湖[pa55 tu51 ə214 xu35](Batur,D.); When /l/ and /r/ are at the end of a syllable, they will be replaced by Chinese characters “尔[ə214]”, such as 肯达尔[kʰən214 ta35 ə214](Kendal), and 吉安亚尔[tei35 an55 ja51 ə214](Gianyar); However, in the transliteration process into Chinese, sometimes /r/ will be ignored if it is after a syllable in the Indonesian geographical name.

In addition, other factors need to be considered in the process of transliterating Indonesian geographical names into Chinese. First, the nasal consonant /ŋ/ also appears in the geographical names of cities and regencies in Indonesia. Although the quantity is not large, it brings difficulty to translation, because there are no compound consonants in Chinese. So compound consonants will usually be ignored or replaced by /y/ in the transliteration process. For example, 岸朱[an51 tɕu55] (nganjuk), 拉蒙岸[la55 muŋ35 an51] (Lamongan), 牙威[ja35 wei55] (Ngawi); Second, if two consonants are next to each other in an Indonesian geographical name, but do not yet form a compound consonant, the Chinese translation will add a vowel between the two consonants to form a complete syllable by usually adding /i/ or /e/([ɛ]), such as 斯莱曼县[sɿ55 lai35 man51 ɛjen51](Kabupaten Sleman),

and 克隆贡县[k<sup>h</sup>y51 luŋ35 kuŋ51 ejen51](Kabupaten Klungkung).

Above, we analyzed the processing rules of vowels and consonants in the transliteration process of Indonesian geographical names into Chinese. While the vowels are introduced one by one, only some of the prominent consonants are analyzed. Through the analysis above, we found that in the process of transliteration, the phonetics system of Indonesian must be adjusted and adapted to the Chinese phonetics system, vocabulary and grammar rules when they are transformed into Chinese names, so that it can be widely accepted and used by native Chinese. At the same time, the target language is trying its best to retain the source language's characteristics of Indonesian geographical names. This is a process of mutual adaptation and interaction between Indonesian and Chinese.

### Transliteration into Chinese Dialects

According to the "Overview of Chinese Language and Characters" report released by the Ministry of Education in 2019, Chinese dialects are usually divided into ten major categories: Mandarin dialect, Jin dialect or Shanxi Dialect, Wu dialect, Hokkien dialect, Hakka dialect, Cantonese dialect, Xiang dialect or Hunan dialect, Gan dialect or Jiangxi dialect, Huizhou dialect, and Pinghua dialect. The existence of Chinese dialects has a centuries record. At first, the Chinese came to Southeast Asia mainly to earn a living, either of their own volition or compulsion. They experienced a bitter journey across the ocean to the archipelago and overcame all difficulties. They worked hard and had their own bread and butter. Wherever they went, the cultural customs and beliefs of their hometown were automatically brought along, because their local language and culture were an inseparable part of them. After arriving in the archipelago, they integrated the Chinese traditions into their overseas lives over time, resulting in cross-cultural phenomena from various aspects, including the Chinese naming for a place to live in the archipelago. The distribution of overseas Chinese in Indonesia generally has regional characteristics. In other words, the Cantonese live together, so do the Hokkiens. They believe that earning a living abroad requires the emotional bonding with home folks to bring everyone together. This way is easier for them to help each other for a shared good life.

### *Chinese Transliteration Process of Geographical Names*

Overseas Chinese who migrated and lived in Indonesia

were mostly residents of Fujian Province and Guangdong Province, including Hokkien, Hakka, Teochew, and Cantonese. Wherever the Chinese go, the languages and culture will be with them. They communicate with the locals while blending the languages and cultures. According to the research and statistics by Kong Yuanzhi, a linguist, there are about 1,000 Chinese loanwords in the Indonesian language, most of which come from Hokkien and Cantonese. In contrast, there are nearly 200 Indonesian loanwords in Chinese. It proves that the translation of Indonesian geographical names into Chinese is influenced by Chinese dialects. In particular, those dialects are even used directly as the target language for translation. For instance, 锦石[tein214 ʃɿ35] (Gresik), 惹班[zɿ214 pan55] (Mojokerto, formerly known as Japan), 日惹[zɿ51 zɿ214] (Yogyakarta) are Cantonese names. 庞越[p<sup>h</sup>aŋ35 ye51] (Probolinggo, formerly known as Banger), 邦加[paŋ55 teja55] (Bangka), 勿里洞[wu51 li214 tuŋ51] (Belitung), 山口洋[ʃan55 k<sup>h</sup>ou214 jaŋ35] (Singkawang), 茉莉芬[mo51 li51 fən55] (Madiun), 亚齐[ja51 tɛ<sup>h</sup>i35] (Aceh), 望加锡[wəŋ51 teia55 ei55] (Makassar) are the names from the Hakka dialect. The regional languages of Cantonese and Hakka originate from Guangdong Province. In addition, Chinese dialects from Fujian Province are used to translate the geographical names, like 岩望[jan35 waŋ51] (Pasuruan, formerly known as Gembong), 外南梦[wai51 nan35 məŋ51] (Banyuwangi, formerly known as Blambangan), 坤甸[k<sup>h</sup>un55 tjan51] (Pontianak, formerly known as Kuntianak), 直葛[tʃɿ35 ky214] (Tegal), 万隆[wan51 luŋ35] (Bandung), 茂物[mau51 wu51] (Bogor), 万丹[wan51 tan55] (Banten), 井里汶[tein214 li214 wən51] (Cirebon), 任抹[zɿn35 mo214] (Jember), 厨闽[ts<sup>h</sup>u35 min214] (Tuban), 安汶[an55 wən51] (Ambon), and 棉兰[mian35 lan35] (Medan), etc. Thanks to the Government's continuous efforts in the unification of Chinese characters, we can now use official Chinese - Mandarin to read geographical names which were once translated from dialects. However, the sound of the Mandarin system is different from the one of dialects. Today people respect the older generations of overseas Chinese, and continue to use those commonly known dialectal names, without retranslating them into the official Chinese. It reflects our respect for the cultural traditions of the overseas Chinese living in the archipelago.

### *The Social and Cultural Value Implicit in the Transliteration of Geographical Names*

Toponymy is an important linguistic phenomenon in human society. It is a language symbol agreed by people in order to distinguish geographical regions. It is also a



written history on the planet. According to the research on the origin and evolution of geographical names, useful information on geography, history, ethnicity, and language can often be analyzed.

### Language

Geographical names are part of the language vocabulary. Language is the evolving product of the developing society. The social life of a certain era determines its language content. In other words, the content of language can reflect the basic outlook of social life in a certain era. Geographical names as a part of a language reflect and follow the universal law of language development. Geographical names, closely related to the sub-disciplines of linguistics lexicology, etymology, phonetics, semantics, grammar, dialects, often provide powerful data and arguments for the research of these disciplines. Using linguistic viewpoints and methods is one of the basic contents of research on geographical names. In addition, in the process of migrating to Indonesia, the Chinese brought their language and used their own dialects to complete the naming of geographical names, which has had a profound impact for hundreds of years. So the elements of Medieval Chinese preserved in Indonesian geographical names are now valuable materials for Chinese scholars to study ancient Chinese, which will help to restore and understand the features of Medieval Chinese more comprehensively. Examples are 山口洋, and 坤甸, etc.

### Immigration

The exchanges and contact between different ethnic groups, as well as the history of an ethnic group's migration, often left traces in geographical names. Immigrants name the new areas they moved to using their native language or after their place of origin. Therefore, though some existing geographical names don't longer reveal their relevant immigrant activities as before, the information hidden behind is precious material for us to trace the origin. Geographical names, as an important part of immigration history, interpret the old days more vividly and magnificently. They are also the carriers of immigrant culture that has broadened the scope of geographical name research. In return, the research on geographical names has also provided measurable materials for the study of the history of immigration and its regional culture. The two are closely related to complement and confirm each other.

"*Hanshu Geography*" records that as early as the beginning of AD, Chinese maritime merchants had already traveled to Southeast Asia, a vital link to

the historic Maritime Silk Road. According to Zhuang Guotu's research, as early as the 15th century at the latest, there had been Chinese immigrant settlements in Southeast Asia. On the eve of Chenghoo's voyage to the West, Surabaya and Palembang in Indonesia, there were Chinese immigrant communities with thousands of people each, mainly engaged in trade activities.

There have been several large-scale immigrant activities in history, of which the most recent one occurred in modern times. The 16th century to the 19th century was the late period of Chinese feudal society where feudal exploitation led to extensive poverty. Farmers and handicraftsmen from Fujian Province and Guangdong Province ventured to Southeast Asia to find a way to survive. At that time, there were quite a lot of overseas Chinese living in Indonesia where Hokkien had the largest population, followed by Hakka. During the Dutch colonization of Indonesia, Hakka dialect in Hailufeng dialect became the Dutch's research material. The Dutchman S.H.Schaank conducted fieldwork in western Kalimantan and wrote the Loeh-Foeng-Dialect "*Lufeng Dialect*" in Dutch.

### Two Examples

located in Kalimantan Barat Province, Indonesia, 山口洋 (San Keuw Jong) is an Indonesian geographical name that now is called Singkawang. It is named after the Hakka dialect and pronounced as [san1 kiu3 jong2]. The location of Singkawang city is in the west bordering the Natuna Sea, in the east bordering Mount Roban, Pasi, Raya, and Gunung Poteng. Meanwhile, in the middle of the city flows a river that empties into the Natuna Sea. According to the book *Origins of the City of Tempo Doeloe*, the establishment of this city cannot be separated from the presence of Chinese troops who were stranded in the area in 1293 after leaving Java. About to return to China, the troopship was hit by a storm, forcing the troop to pull over on the west coast of Kalimantan to repair the ship. After the job was done, seven officers were unfortunately left behind. Thus, they settled in Singkawang and married local residents for their offspring. The name Singkawang was taken from the Hakka language San Keuw Jong, which means a city located between the sea, estuaries, mountains and rivers.

坤甸 [k<sup>h</sup>un55 tjen51] is an Indonesian city named after the Teochew dialect, meaning "stopping". Its strategic location makes the area a temporary stopover for welcoming sailors or traders. And most of the Chinese parents in Pontianak today still call the city Kun Tian. In Pontianak, one of the Chinese dialects widely used by the Chinese is Teochew, a branch of powerful local languages

with a great impact on the local society. Pontianak Chinese accounted for 31.24% of Pontianak's total population, of which Teochew people accounted for approximately 20% of Pontianak's population. In Pontianak, both Hakka and Teochew people can speak Teochew fluently. Teochew people sell a variety of traditional Teochew snacks on most of the streets. Bogong temples and ancestral halls are all over Pontianak.

The Chinese names for Indonesian places do not only contain linguistic information, but also reflect the characteristics of the local dialects. They are also a symbol of the strong local dialects abroad. We have reason to believe that the Hakka dialect of 山口洋 (San Keuw Jong) is the dominant Chinese dialect among all Indonesian Chinese, while in Pontianak the Teochew dialect prevails. Upon further reasoning, we can try to use Chinese dialects for Indonesian geographical names to picture an overview of the ethnic distribution of the Indonesian Chinese. This is an important task that we can study in the next step.

### **The Result of Transliteration of Chinese Names Changed in History according to Political Changes in Indonesia**

Sometimes a geographical name will be changed if its dominating regime changes. Likewise, its Chinese name will also be adjusted. For example, Jakarta, located on the west of Java Island, is the capital of Indonesia. In the 13th century AD, Jakarta was once a spice trading port. At that time, it was called Sunda Kelapa. "Sunda" is the name of the largest tribe in West Java, and "Kelapa" is the Malay name for coconut. The name Sunda Kelapa is full of cultural and local significance. Its translated Chinese name is 巽他格拉巴 [ɛyn51 tʰa55 ky35 la55 pa55]. This is the result of transliteration in the conversion process. However, the local Chinese and overseas Chinese have been calling it "椰城 [jy55 tsʰəŋ35]" which means "Coconut City" in everyday conversation. The naming change to Jayakarta is estimated to have occurred on June 22, 1527 when the Demak army troops burned Sunda Kelapa and replaced it with the name Jayakarta, meaning a "resounding victory". This date is then chosen and commemorated every year as Jakarta's anniversary. Jayakarta was first transliterated as the Chinese name "查雅加尔达 [tʂʰa35 ja214 tɛja55 ə214 ta35]". In 1619, the VOC succeeded in capturing the city of Jayakarta and changing its name to Batavia. The Chinese then called it "巴城" [pa55 tsʰəŋ35] in their colloquial terms, and used "巴达维亚 [pa55 ta35 wei35 ja51]" as its official Chinese name. Over time, the City of Batavia expanded

and its facilities were constantly increasing. Historically, the name Batavia has a very long life span that is up to more than three centuries (1619-1942).

After Indonesia's independence on August 17, 1945, the name Jakarta was resumed. Its Chinese name became 雅加达 [ja214 tɛja55 ta35] but many Chinese would still call it "椰城 [jy55 tsʰəŋ35]". In 1959, the status of the city of Jakarta underwent a change from a municipality to a level-one area led by a governor. Then in 1961, its status was changed to Special Capital Region (DKI). Its Chinese name was also changed to 雅加达首都特区 [ja214 tɛja55 ta35 ʂou214 tu55 ty51 tɛʰy55], shortened to 雅加达 [ja214 tɛja55 ta35], and many Chinese still used the word "椰城 [jy55 tsʰəŋ35]" for Jakarta. So, the Chinese name for the same place in Indonesia keeps changing with its historical development. Over time, the Chinese translation of geographical names contains rich historical and cultural meanings with a high value in anthropological research.

### **Principles and Methods of Geographical Name Translation**

The traditional method of translating foreign geographical names is transliteration; the translation of the specific and general parts generally adopts the methods of transliteration for the former and paraphrasing for the latter. First, we need to look at if it is the place of a settlement. In principle, the names of residential areas should be transliterated instead of using paraphrasing. For example, the city of Batu in East Java as a residential area is transliterated as "巴杜 [pa55 tu51]", not as "[ʂɿ35 tʰəu35](stone)". The city Medan in Sumatra Utara Province is transliterated as "棉兰 [mjɛn35 lan35]", not as "战场 [tʂan51 tsʰəŋ214](battlefield)". If a compound word contains both the specific and the general parts for the name of a residential area, the general part shall also be transliterated. For example, Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh Province, consists of two parts, "Banda" and "Aceh". "Banda" is a generic name, which means seaport or harbor, so its corresponding Chinese name is "港". However, during translation, the generic name "Banda" is not translated as "港", but transliterated and translated as 班达亚齐 [pan55 ta35 ja51 tɛi35], instead of 亚齐港 [ja51 tɛʰi35 kaŋ214](the sea port of Aceh).

When Indonesian nouns and modifiers are combined, the modifiers are generally located behind the nouns. This structural feature of Indonesian is also reflected in its geographical names. Therefore, the general part of the compound word that constitutes the name of a residential area is often before the specific part. In

this case, regardless of the form of continuous writing or separate writing, the general part that marks the residential area will be transliterated, but there is no need to switch the two parts around. For example, ‘anjung’ means “海岬[xai214 eia35](cape)” in Indonesian, and the Indonesian geographical name Tanjung Balai is translated as “丹戎巴来[tan55 zuŋ35 pa55 lai35]”, rather than “巴来丹戎[pa55 lai35 tan55 zuŋ35]” or “巴来海岬[pa55 lai35 xai214 eia35]”.

### ***The Principle of “Names Follow the Owner”***

The standardization of international geographical names should be based on the standardization of them in every country. For this reason, “names follow the owner” is a principle that all countries must follow when translating and transcribing foreign geographical names. We believe that under the guidance of the principle of “names follow the owner”, the translation of foreign geographical names should respect the opinions of the relevant sovereign countries, and the standard Roman spelling of the names within the sovereignty of each country must be adopted. For example, in the translation of Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, Batavia, the name that marks the Dutch colonization, cannot be used. The same applies to its translated versions such as 巴达维亚[pa55 ta35 wei35 ja51], or 巴城[pa55 tɕʰəŋ35]. But Jakarta, the name that celebrates its independence, can be used and translated as “雅加达[ja214 tɕja55 ta35]. East Timor was once a province in Indonesia, and we used “东帝汶[duŋ55 ti51 wen51]” to call Timor Timur, which indicated its occupation by Indonesia. Now it is a sovereign, and the official name was also changed to be the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste, in its shortened form, is widely used in

English and all other languages of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The continuation in using the name “东帝汶[duŋ55 ti51 wen51]” is not appropriate and fails to demonstrate its sovereignty. Therefore, “帝汶乐斯特[ti51 wen51 ly51 ɕj55 tʰy51]” is suggested to distinguish itself from the original name 东帝汶[duŋ55 ti51 wən51].

### ***Language and Phonetic Issues in the Translation of Foreign Geographical Names***

The transliteration of geographical names shall be based on the standard pronunciation of each countries’ national language, and the pronunciation of any dialect shall not be considered in principle. So, for Indonesian geographical names, although some names are based on dialects, the basis for our translation is Indonesian pronunciation. There are nearly a thousand languages in Indonesia, and

the naming origin of each place is different. However, in the process of transliterating Indonesian geographical names, we will choose the Indonesian phonetic system to pronounce the names. This requires our translators to be proficient in both Chinese and Indonesian pronunciation, with sufficient knowledge in translation methods that convert the “sound” into Chinese pronunciation, as well as skills in choosing the right characters to represent it.

So how do we handle the conversion process for parts that don’t exist in the source language but are mandatory elements in the target language? One example is the tone that is necessary to be discussed when we talk about Chinese. The tone is the use of rising or falling changes in a language to distinguish lexical or grammatical meanings. Since ancient times, tones have existed in the Chinese language. Modern Chinese contains 4 tones, namely Yinping(55), Yangping(35), Shangsheng(214), and Qusheng(51). Different tones represent different ups and downs and produce different lexical meanings, classified as suprasegmental phoneme. A phoneme is a linguistic unit that has distinguishing characteristics of meaning. But the changes in Indonesian tones do not differentiate the meaning, and they are not considered an obligatory part of the syllable with phonemic characteristics. Translating toneless geographical names into Chinese with tones is a common problem faced in most languages of the world, let alone the Chinese translation from Indonesian geographical names. To overcome this, the Chinese opted for the “zero pitch” method. That is, when toneless Indonesian words are translated into Chinese characters, the tone, an inseparable element of Chinese characters, will be remained, as a part that automatically appears.

However, the tone is not a factor that affects translation as Chinese tones with no explanatory power will not be considered in the translation process. For example, the island of Bali is translated as “巴利[pa55 li51]” in the historical book “*Hai Tao Yi Zhi*”. But nowadays we use “巴厘[pa55 li35]” to refer to the island of Bali. Between the two versions, their tones are the only difference, namely, “li51” and “li35”. The former is Qusheng[51] and the latter is Yangping[35]. In a few words, the tone has been an “automatic element” in Chinese translations of foreign geographical names since ancient times, which is part of the language structure that appears naturally due to the linguistic characteristics of the target language.

### ***The Translation of Feature Names***

Feature names refer to natural or physical features of the landscape and are subdivided into hydronyms (water

features), oronyms (relief features), and places of natural vegetation growth (meadows, glades, groves). Feature names are composed of generic terms, geographical generic and specific terms. The generic term may precede or follow the specific one. Some of the Indonesian specific and generic terms in the feature names are written consecutively in the orthographic writing method, but some are written separately. However, if we use Chinese characters to translate foreign feature names, the generic part in the feature name will use the paraphrasing method in translation, regardless of whether the generic geographical name is placed before or after the specific name in word formation, or whether the generic and specific names are spelled consecutively or separately, such as 爪哇海[tʃau214 wa55 xai214] Laut Jawa, 马鲁古群岛[ma214 lu214 ku214 tau214] Kepulauan Maluku, and 阿贡山[a55 kuŋ51 ʃan55] Gunung Agung.

In actual practice, the complete transliteration of some geographical names is too long and difficult to remember. People are daunted in reading, failing to achieve the expected communication effect. Through the long-term practice of name translation, we start from the characteristics of Chinese name translation to omit light pronunciation in transliteration. We have also summarized the practical and feasible successful experience of predecessors in the paraphrase of geographical names, as well as their seven aspects.

***For Geographical Names with Political, Historical or Other Significance, If the Transliteration Is Too Long, Paraphrase May Be Adopted***

Take Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta, Kalimantan Selatan, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta for example, if they are translated into Chinese as 达尔拉胡苏斯尹布考达查卡尔达[ta35 ə214 la55 xu35 su55 sɿ55 i214 pu51 kʰau214 ta35 tʃʰa35 kʰa214 ə214 ta35], 加里曼丹塞拉丹[teja55 li214 man51 tan55 sai51 la55 tan55], 努沙登加拉巴拉特[nu214 ʃa55 teŋ55 teja55 la55 pa55 la55 tɿ51], and 达尔拉以斯提麦瓦越卡亚卡尔达[ta35 ə214 la55 i214 sɿ55 tʰi35 mai51 wa214 ye51 kʰa214 ja51 kʰa214 ə214 ta35], it would be so obscure for people to remember and to use. So we should adopt paraphrasing while considering the historical, sociolinguistic and cultural factors of these places to arrive at a corresponding result. For instance, “Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta”, has been a political, economic and cultural center for hundreds of years. After independence, Jakarta is not only the capital but also a special region. It is necessary to reflect its political and economic status in the Chinese name, that is “雅

加达首都特区”[ja214 teja55 ta35 ʃou214 tu55 tʰy51 teʰy55]. But the geographical name composed of seven syllables is still too long, so the Chinese people gave it the abbreviation “雅加达”[ja214 teja55 ta35] or “椰城”. [jy55 tʃʰəŋ35] “Kalimantan Selatan” is translated as “南加里曼丹”[nan35 teja55 li214 man51 tan55], referred to as “南加”[nan35 teja55]; Nusa Tenggara Barat, is translated as “西努沙登加拉”[ei55 nu214 ʃa55 təŋ55 teja55 la55], and its abbreviation is “西努”[ei55 nu214]; Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta is translated as “日惹特区”[ɿ51 ɿy214 tʰy51 teʰy55], and its abbreviation is “日惹”[ɿ51 ɿy214].

When the name of the geographical area clearly reflects the geographical position and geographical features, paraphrasing is adopted. Words such as position, size, new and old (such as east, south, west, north, up, down, back, big, medium, small, red, white, black) that modify the specific part of geographical names are generally translated. Transliteration is adopted for those that only modify the general names of places. For example, the names “pulau seribu” and “Universitas Sebelas Maret” are translated as “千岛”[tʰian55 tau214] and “311大学”[san55 jau55 jau55 ta51 ɛyɛ35], which gets same meaning in Chinese. In “Kepulauan Sunda Besar” (大巽他群岛[ta51 ɛyn51 ta51 teʰyn35 tau214]), the word “Besar” is translated as “大”, meaning “big”.

Although some geographically translated names do not conform to the rules of transliteration, the Chinese pronunciation is very different from the Indonesian pronunciation. However, we should realize that the way to name a place name is not just transliteration, but can also be derived from social and cultural reasons. Take an example, overseas Chinese and Chinese living in Indonesia or people in China prefer to use representative geographical names of Indonesia, such as 泗水[sɿ51 ʃwei214](Surabaya) and 三宝垄[san55 pau214 luŋ214] (Semarang).

泗水[sɿ51 ʃwei214] is the Chinese name for Surabaya, the second-largest city in Indonesia. Located in the east of Java Island, it is one of the important trading ports that connect the eastern and western regions of Indonesia. Chinese people have come to Surabaya for a long time, so the Chinese name 泗水[sɿ51 ʃwei214] is not the result of transliteration, but is closely related to Chinese culture. It is said that the first group of Chinese who came to Indonesia wanted to inherit the traditional Chinese culture of Confucianism. 泗水[sɿ51 ʃwei214] is a large river in Qufu city in northern China, the hometown of Confucius. As Confucius wished, he was buried on the banks of the 泗水[sɿ51 ʃwei214] river after his death. Indonesia is an archipelagic country where

coastal cities are the majority, so the Chinese agreed that the city where the first Confucian Temple was built could be called “泗水[sɿ51 ʂwei214]” in Chinese. Therefore, when Surabaya first established the Confucian Temple 文庙[wən35 mjau51]”Bun Bio”, then Surabaya got the name “泗水[sɿ51 ʂwei214]”. To this day, the Surabaya Confucian Temple still plays an important role among Chinese Indonesians. They often hold activities and lectures on Confucianism to honor Confucius and his disciples.

“三宝垄[san55 pau214 luŋ214]” is the Chinese name for the city of Semarang. “三宝[san55 pau214]” is a nickname for Chenghoo, an admiral in the Ming Dynasty who brought ships to the archipelago seven times. According to records, the Chinese came to live in Semarang in the mid-10th century. The Chinese name “三宝垄[san55 pau214 luŋ214]” is associated with Chenghoo’s voyage to the archipelago. When his ship arrived on the north coast of Java, Chenghoo and his entourage assisted local residents in developing land, growing crops, building houses, and marrying local women and spreading Islam. Locals and overseas Chinese highly respected Chenghoo and built a statue for Chenghoo in the Cave he had visited. In front of the cave, there was a temple. Since Sanbao is Chenghoo’s nickname, the cave was called Sanbao Cave and the temple was called Sanbao Temple. Then the city of Semarang was also given the Chinese name “三宝垄[san55 pau214 luŋ214]”, which was considered a sign of respect for Chenghoo. On every June 30 in the Chinese Lunar Calendar, people from all over Indonesia come to commemorate Chenghoo who made a great contribution to China-Indonesia friendship.

From the example of 泗水[sɿ51 ʂwei214] and 三宝垄[san55 pau214 luŋ214], it is not difficult for us to understand that when certain geographical names are already widely accepted and used, it is recommended to adopt them in order to respect the history and social culture, although they are not translated according to current rules. Actually, in the translation of foreign geographical names, it is often difficult to make decisions. Which names should be retained? Which names should be retranslated according to the transliteration standard? As each person understands the situation differently, the view is also inconsistent. So it needs to be resolved through consultation. Below we will focus on transliteration, which accounts for 90% of the translation process. Since most of the original geographical names are polysemantic, paraphrasing is usually a preference. If the cultural and language barriers are large, then the transliteration method is adopted. However, symbols seem to be the

only result of transliteration from the source language to the target language, which is still far from solving the practical problem of translating geographic names. Kang Zhihong argues that one of the important characteristics of the source language - target language relationship in the translation of geographical names is that the source language symbols must be adapted to and comply with the social pragmatic conditions and customs of the target language; the key to the translation of geographical names is not the meaning of the symbols. The phonetic equation or correspondence lies in the exact way in which the translated name refers to the source name in the target language.

In translating geographical names, the translator is actually more concerned with referencing the source name than the name itself. Therefore, in the translation process, the act of changing the source name reference is actually carried out for “transmission of symbols”, namely, the reconstruction of the reference relationship in the target language, which mainly adopts communicative translation. This display can be used to explain the Chinese translation of scenic spot names among tourist spots.

Take 情人崖[te<sup>h</sup>iŋ35 zən35 ja35] and 圣泉寺[ʂən51 te<sup>h</sup>yan35 sɿ51] as an example, Chinese tourists can have a basic overview of this beautiful place. The literal meaning of “情人崖[te<sup>h</sup>iŋ35 zən35 ja35]” is “Lovers’ cliff (Jurang Cinta)”, much different from the Indonesian name “Uluwatu Temple Bali”, but “love” is a beautiful feeling and is expected by all humans. It’s also an attractive name that stimulates Chinese tourists’ great desire to visit. The literal meaning of “圣泉寺[ʂən51 te<sup>h</sup>yan35 sɿ51]” is a temple with a sacred well rooted in Chinese temple culture. As a result, this is very suitable for “Tirta Empul Temple”, which is translated as “圣泉寺[ʂən51 hyn35 sɿ51]”, and Chinese people will immediately get the images of temples like the ones in China at once with increased curiosity. In this way, on one hand it is easy for tourists to remember, on the other hand, it stimulates the interest of tourists to visit the place, where Chinese visitors hope of see a different display of related concepts familiar to China.

## CONCLUSION

With the continuous deepening of China-Indonesia relations, along with the expanded cooperation in various fields, the demand for translating geographical name has also increased. To solve the chaotic phenomenon of “multiple translations for one place”, the standardization of geographical name translation has become more and

more important. This article selects authoritative and instructive materials as the research object, focusing on answering the principles and methods in the Chinese translation of Indonesian geographical names, especially the processing of vowels and consonants in transliteration. Through phonetic comparison and comparative historical research, this article found that in the process of translation, the two languages have mutual adaptation and adjustment in phonetics, vocabulary, and grammar. There are also some special situations, in some cases, paraphrasing is better and necessary. And the result shall be preserved as some geographical names have been widely used throughout history. It is necessary to create a manual reference for the Indonesian-Chinese translation of geographical names. In addition, the translation of geographical names contains a wealth of immigrant culture and dialectal information, which can infer the general distribution of early Chinese immigrants in Indonesian settlements, guide significance for the study of Chinese society, culture and geography. It can also be used for the study of ancient Chinese.

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